

---

## EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Meeting of Tuesday 26 February 2008  
at 10.30am in Council Offices, English Street, Dumfries

### Present

#### Members

<b>Sandra McDowall</b> (Chairman)	- Mid Galloway
<b>Gail MacGregor</b> (Vice Chairman)	- Annandale North
<b>Ivor A Hyslop</b> (Leader)	- Lochar
<b>Ian Blake</b>	- Abbey
<b>John A Charteris</b>	- Lochar
<b>Brian Collins</b>	- Castle Douglas & Glenkens
<b>John Dougan</b>	- Stranraer & North Rhins
<b>Gillian Dykes</b>	- Mid & Upper Nithsdale
<b>Jack Groom</b>	- Nith
<b>Jeff Leaver</b>	- Lochar
<b>Ian Lindsay</b>	- Annandale East
<b>Jane S Maitland</b>	- Dee
<b>John Martin</b>	- Nith
<b>Lorna McGowan</b>	- Lochar
<b>Ronnie Nicholson</b>	- North West Dumfries
<b>Doug Snell</b>	- North West Dumfries
<b>David Stitt</b>	- Abbey
<b>Alastair Witts</b>	- Nith
<b>Robert McQuistan</b>	- Church Representative
<b>Mgr Peter Magee</b>	- Church Representative
<b>Timothy Birrell</b>	- Secondary Teacher Representative
<b>Elizabeth Ross</b>	- Primary Teacher Representative

#### Officials

<b>Colin Grant</b>	- Service Director Schools Services
<b>Stewart Atkinson</b>	- Group Manager Community Services
<b>Neil Carruthers</b>	- Childcare Partnership Co-ordinator
<b>Carol Henshall</b>	- Service Manager, Committee and Member Services
<b>Peter Nelson</b>	- Service Manager – ESWCS Property
<b>Caroline Taylor</b>	- Group Business Manager
<b>Lindsay Wilson</b>	- Service Manager Business Performance & Development, Financial Services

**Apologies**

- Ted Brown** - Annandale North
- Ian B Carruthers** - Annandale South
- James H Dempster** - Mid & Upper Nithsdale
- Michael Dickie** - Annandale North
- Patsy Gilroy** - Dee  
(Convener)
- Thomas Jacques** - Dee
- Sean W Marshall** - Annandale South
- Canon Robin Paisley** - Church Representative

**Alex Haswell**

Group Manager Corporate Support & Governance

**22 Members present****0.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- Gillian Dykes declared an interest in Item 7 – Future Provision for Pupils with Profound and Complex needs currently attending Langlands School and left the meeting for this item.

**PROCEDURE – agreed to defer Item 9 Dumfries and Galloway Arts Association Limited to the next meeting of the Committee.**

**1. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 29 JANUARY 2008****Decision****AGREED**

**2. SCHOOLS SERVICES REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT AS AT 28 DECEMBER 2007** - Report dated 19 February 2008 by Acting Director of Finance.

**Decision****NOTED**

- 2.1 the projected over-spend of £8K in Schools Services as at December 2007;
- 2.2 that the current core budget pressures for Schools Services totalled £1,224K for 2008/09, including £300K relating to Single Status;
- 2.3 that the Scottish Government Finance Settlement included a reduction in National Priority Action Fund funding, resulting in a potential shortfall of £503K within 2008/09, which was included in the budget pressures; and
- 2.4 that the Schools Services Management Team were currently investigating options to address the budget pressures, including the reduction in National Priority Action Fund funding.

**3. COMMUNITY SERVICES REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING FOR 2007/08** - Report dated 18 February 2008 by Acting Director of Finance.

**Decision****NOTED**

- 3.1 the projected potential overspend of £319K and the reasons for the projected outturn variances;
- 3.2 that officers were working on ways to reduce the overspend;

**AGREED**

- 3.3 to receive a report to a future meeting on the marketing of civil ceremonies across Dumfries and Galloway;
- 3.4 to receive a report in early course on the achievement of single status savings; and
- 3.5 to receive a report on the Archivist Service and possible joint working with NHS Dumfries and Galloway to a future meeting.

**4. CULTURAL SERVICES – SAVINGS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN** - Report dated 19 February 2008 by Group Manager Community Services.

**VOTE**

4.1 **MOTION** by **JOHN MARTIN**, seconded by **JEFF LEAVER** to (1) note the background to the proposed saving; (2) note the implementation plan and agree to receive a report to the March 2008 meeting on the provision of alternative means of delivering this saving within Cultural Services; and (3) note that the level of saving achieved during 2008-09 will be dependant on the level of turnover of staff within Cultural Services and will be reported to a future committee.

4.2 **AMENDMENT** by **SANDRA McDOWALL**, seconded by **JOHN A CHARTERIS** to (1) note the background to the proposed saving; (2) agree the implementation plan outlined within the report; and (3) note that the level of saving achieved during 2008-09 will be dependant on the level of turnover of staff within Cultural Services and will be reported to a future committee.

4.3 On a vote being taken by roll call, Members voted as follows:-

**Motion – 8** being:-

Brian Collins, Jeff Leaver, John Martin, Lorna McGowan, Ronnie Nicholson, Doug Snell, David Stitt and Alastair Witts.

**Amendment – 10** being:-

Sandra McDowall, Gail MacGregor, Ivor Hyslop, Ian Blake, John A Charteris, John Dougan, Gillian Dykes, Jack Groom, Ian Lindsay and Jane S Maitland.

**Decision**

**NOTED**

4.1 the background to the proposed saving;

4.2 that the level of saving achieved during 2008-09 would be dependant on the level of turnover of staff within Cultural Services and would be reported to a future committee; and

4.3 **AGREED** the implementation plan outlined within the report.

**5. SCHOOLS SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND PROPERTY ISSUES - FEBRUARY 2008-** Report dated 19 February 2008 by Service Director Schools Services.

**Decision**

**NOTED**

5.1 the significant progress made on the Schools Services Capital programme, which had resulted in an investment of £7.6M across the school estate during 2007/08;

5.2 the information on spend across the key drivers: Health and Safety, Education Improvement Plan, including HMle/Care Commission and Wind and Watertight;

5.3 the Net Resources and latest Projected Costs for each funding block in 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10; and

5.4 **APPROVED** the proposed additional projects for inclusion in the Schools Services Capital Maintenance Programme.

**MEMBERS – John Dougan and Gail MacGregor left the meeting – 20 Members present**

**6. DUMFRIES HIGH SCHOOL - REPORT ON CURRENT STRUCTURAL POSITION AND THE CONTINGENCY PROVISION OF A DEMOUNTABLE FACILITY TO CONTINUE SERVICE DELIVERY** - Report dated 19 February 2008 by Service Director Schools Services.

#### Decision

##### **NOTED**

6.1 the position statement on the remedial and monitoring works at Dumfries High School as provided by Design Services, which confirmed that this area of the school was currently safe;

6.2 the current progress and proposed location of a demountable classroom facility located at Dumfries High School;

6.3 the contents of the risk register, in relation to both educational service delivery and works on site;

6.4 that the structural condition of Dumfries High School would be taken into account in the Dumfries Secondary Review; and

6.5 **AGREED** to the implementation of an Action Plan to take the proposals to planning approval and pre-tender position and to implement if further deterioration becomes evident.

**MEMBERS – Gail MacGregor re-entered the meeting and Gillian Dykes declared an interest and left the meeting – 20 Members present**

**7. FUTURE PROVISION FOR PUPILS WITH PROFOUND AND COMPLEX NEEDS CURRENTLY ATTENDING LANGLANDS SCHOOL** - Report dated 19 February 2008 by Service Director Schools Services.

#### Decision

7.1 **NOTED** the continuing views of parents;

7.2 **APPROVED** the closure of Langlands School, but to defer its closure until the end of 2010/2011 academic year, by which time the majority of the current pupils would have progressed through the school;

##### **AGREED**

7.3 to the building of a new integrated provision, which would open at the beginning of academic year 2011/12, or at later date when the new facility was completed;

7.4 not to exclude the hydrotherapy facility from the project at this time and to remit to officers to review and report in September 2008 on affordability, any site constraints and progress on the designs and consultations with the service users and staff;

7.5 to support the continued engagement with parents and staff to develop optimum outcomes for children, through the proposed transition phase; and  
 7.6 appreciating that future decisions will be needed by this Council on the Langlands site, following closure of the school and opening of new integrated provision, to remit to the Social Work Services Committee consideration of the concerns regarding the appropriateness and adequacy of post school provision for young people with complex needs and ask that this be reviewed under the totality of the Learning Disability strategy development.

**MEMBERS - Gillian Dykes re-entered and Timothy Birrell, Robert McQuistan, Mgr Peter Magee and Elizabeth Ross left the meeting - 17 Members present**

**8. NATIONAL CHILDCARE STRATEGY FUNDING 2007/08** - Report dated 19 February 2008 by Service Director Schools Services.

**PROCEDURE – the Chairman advised of receipt of an email in which VOICE had affirmed that the report was in their view accurate and informative and confirmed that the further issues raised would be dealt with administratively.**

#### Decision

#### **NOTED**

8.1 the payment plan for the financial year 2007/08:

<b>Group Name</b>	<b>Allocated funding</b>	<b>Payment to date</b>	<b>Agreed Future payments</b>	<b>Total for 2007/08</b>
Galloway Childcare Company	93,186	44,340	44,192	88,532
Georgetown Playcare Ltd	20,000	13,000	0	13,000
Langholm Playcare Ltd	15,533	5,677	9,178	14,855
Laurieknowe Out of School Care	7,750	5,700	TBC	5,700
Lincluden After School Group	15,000	5,718	9,282	15,000
Lochmaben Playcare	15,000	6,000	9,000	15,000
Moffat Small 'n Tall	19,800	14,800	5,000	19,800
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>186,269</b>	<b>95,235</b>	<b>76,652</b>	<b>171,887</b>

8.2 the position in relation to predicted financial deficits for 2008/09 as follows:

8.2.1 Georgetown Playcare Limited and Moffat Small 'n Tall – both organisations advised that they did not expect to require funding from the Council;

8.2.2 Galloway Childcare Company – predicted deficit - £43,250; and

8.2.3 Lincluden After School Group – predicted deficit - £11,356 Langholm Playcare Ltd, Laurieknowe Out of School Care and Lochmaben Playcare – position not confirmed; and

8.3 **AGREED** to receive a further report on the final outcome of the generation of SMART Action Plans, to include actual funding needs of organisations for the financial year 2008/09.

**9. DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY ARTS ASSOCIATION LIMITED** - Report dated 19 February 2008 by Group Manager Community Services.

#### Decision

**NOTED** that this report would be deferred for consideration in March 2008.

**10. THIRD SECTOR FUNDING: FINANCIAL YEARS 2008/09 TO 2010/11 -**  
Report dated 19 February 2008 by Group Manager Community Services.

**Decision**

**AGREED**

10.1 that the balance of £3,592 from the Third Sector Strategic Budget 2007/08 (Community Learning & Development) be transferred into the Third Sector Strategic Budget 2008/09 (Community Learning & Development);

10.2 that the Working Group to identify strategic partners should change its focus to strategic activities, in order to assist in achieving the strategic objectives flowing down from the "Government Economic Strategy" (Scottish Government 2007);

10.3 that for 3 year funding awards commencing 2008/09, award levels for Years 2 and 3 are "in principle" so that the Council may reserve the right to increase or reduce these awards depending on the outcome of the ongoing work to identify strategic activities, appreciating that work on the identification of strategic activities is programmed for completion and reporting to Members prior to March 2009; and

10.4 the implementation of a more robust financial monitoring system to be developed and continuously improved by Officers.

**MEMBER – John Dougan re-entered the meeting – 18 Members present**

**11. CANONBIE PUBLIC HALL AND PLAYING FIELD RECREATION CENTRE – LEASE – OUTSTANDING ISSUES -** Report dated 19 February 2008 by Group Manager Community Services.

**Decision**

**NOTED**

11.1 that the Trustees of Canonbie Public Hall and Playing Field Recreation Centre Management Committee had been awarded a grant of up to £100k from the Scottish Rural Partnership Local Capital Grant Scheme in March 2003 on the condition that the property was owned by the community or leased to them on a long term basis and that a total of £91,736 was claimed and received;

11.2 the lease to the Trustees of Canonbie Public Hall and Playing Field Recreation Centre Management Committee, in particular the signing of the 25 year Lease with the Council effective from 17 September 2004;

11.3 the most recent condition survey for the property identified outstanding capital works valued at £81,700 (excluding professional fees);

11.4 that the Trustees of Canonbie Public Hall and Playing Field Recreation Centre Management Committee owed Dumfries and Galloway Council £30,827.64 for "construction work and fees" to construct a large extension comprising of male and female changing rooms, showers, toilets and a store;

11.5 that the Trustees of Canonbie Public Hall and Playing Field Recreation Centre Management Committee did not have funds to pay both the outstanding balance owed to the Council and deal with the outstanding property work, as detailed in the condition survey; and

11.6 **AGREED** to fund the outstanding balance of £30,827.64 from the Community Learning and Development Service Capital (Maintenance) Programme 2007/08 as the Council's contribution to making the property fit for purpose, on the basis that the

outstanding works and any future work (both repairs and capital) was completed by, and was the sole responsibility of the Trustees of Canonbie Public Hall and Playing Field Recreation Centre Management Committee.

**12. ALL OF SCOTLAND GROUP 2014 [GLASGOW COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2014]** - Report dated 18 February 2008 by Group Manager Community Services.

**Decision**

**AGREED** to nominate Sandra McDowall as the representative to the reconvened All of Scotland Group 2014.